

Examiner states that providing a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity that has achieved the same result involves only routine skill in the art. Claim 1 recites a purchase generator to display the purchase price and transact a purchase of the product in response to a user request. The manual administration of volume license agreements does not involve a purchase generator to display the purchase price and transact a purchase of the product in response to a user request.

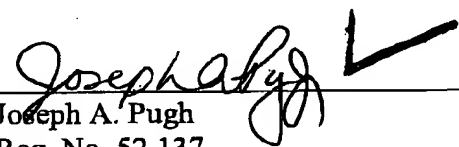
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22 and 24 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- a repository for storing a volume license agreement for a product;
 - a repository for maintaining a purchase history for the product;
 - a rules engine containing a set of rules for determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement;
 - a pricing generator to [generate] calculate a purchase price for the product in accordance with the [volume license agreement] discount step and the purchase history, wherein the pricing generator determines whether the discount step is current and, if the discount step is not current, determines a new discount step and updates the purchase price; and
 - a purchase generator to display the purchase price and transact a purchase of the product in response to a user request.

7. Canceled.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 1 wherein the rules engine further contains a set of rules for determining [a] the discount step for the product in accordance with a profile of the user that requested the purchase.

10. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing:

- storing a volume license agreement for a product;
- maintaining a purchase history for the product;

determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement.

[generating] calculating a purchase price for the product in accordance with the [volume license agreement] discount step and the purchase history;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the purchase price, if the discount step is not current; and

transacting a purchase of the product in response to a user approving the purchase price.

15. Canceled.

16. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim [15] 10, wherein the [purchase price generating] discount step determining instructions further contain instructions for determining [a] the discount step for the product in accordance with a user profile of the user approving the purchase price.

17. (Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
storing a volume license agreement for a product in a repository;
recording a history of purchases of the product pursuant to the volume license agreement;
determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement.

[generating] calculating a price for a purchase of the product in accordance with the [volume license agreement] discount step and the history of purchases;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the price, if the discount step is not current;

and

transacting the purchase of the product for the generated price in response to a purchaser request.

23. Canceled.